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California GARDEN

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A
CHRISTMAS
GREETING
FOR
1940

Great Spirit
Of the living tree
Grant us at this
Christmastide
The Divine Gift
Of a quickening sense
Of the brotherhood of man
And the fatherhood of
Our God.

—Byrd Carter.

*The above was written beneath the
General Sherman tree in the Sequoia
National Park.*

DECEMBER
1940

CALIFORNIA BULBS

Ethel Bailey Higgins

FOREGROUND
PLANTING

Esther Clare Johnson

GAMBEL
WHITE-CROWNED
SPARROW

Frank Gander

WINTER GARDEN

Walter Birch Jr.

GLEANINGS

Ida Louise Bryant

PROBLEMS OF THE SOIL

Rob't. R. McLean

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Meet Your California Bulbs

By ETHEL BAILEY HIGGINS

I have wondered many times at the almost complete absence of the California bulbs from our gardens. One day in an eastern magazine I came upon what might be the reason—it listed our *Calochortus* as "inconspicuous."

Perhaps that is the answer—some of the flamboyant exotics blind us to the beauty of our own. I once had a nice collection of the California bulbs in my own garden, and it was indeed a joy. I had first seen our Tiger Lily (*L. Humboldtii*) growing up in a clump of the tall Woodwardia ferns, and this motif I duplicated in my garden to the admiration of all who saw it. Another of our lilies with less of sophisticated appeal, but more refined in its equal brilliance is the beautiful Lemon Lily (*Lilium Parryi*), a clear bright yellow.

Our *Calochortus* are of three strains, of which we have two in San Diego County. The Globe tulip, represented by us by *Calochortus albus*, is indeed not inconspicuous, but it would be hard to find a flower with greater delicate beauty. It is the "fairy lantern" of our mountains, a delicate white nodding flower. In other localities there is to be found a variety of this (*C. albus* var. *rubellus*), a dainty light pink flower, and another species, *C. pulchellus*, or golden lantern.

The second strain which we have is the Mariposa, that musical Spanish name which is so descriptive—the butterfly lily. Many of the species are marked with bright splashes of color lending them the resemblance which caught the fancy of the Spanish sponsor of their name. Indeed, all the names connected with these lovely flowers speak of their beauty, for the scientific name is, translated, "beautiful grass," grass being descriptive of the narrow grass-like leaves.

Of the many beautiful Mariposas which California can boast, there are three that are entitled to be called San Diego native daughters, for they were described and named from flowers first found here. They are *C. Dunnii*, *C. Weedii*, and *C. concolor*. Our best known one, however, is probably *C. splendens*. *Calochortus weedii*, first found near San Marcos, is the quiet member of the group, being dressed in homespun as it were, all in bronzy yellows and browns. *C. concolor*, the golden bowl, is a clear bright yellow, while *C. Dunnii* is a white to lavender with brown bands. These two latter are quite rare. *C. splendens* is the lilace one we still find in such abundance over all our hills and fields. Notice the bluish tint to the anthers against the pinky-lavender of the petals.

If we go further afield, we will

find them in all colors and combinations of color. Back of Hollywood, where is now Universal City (and no Mariposas) there used to be *C. Catalinae*, faint lavender to white splashed with crimson. Witness too, the appropriateness of its name—the butterfly lily, exemplified as well in two of our own, *C. venustus* and *C. Nuttallii* var. *australis*.

In that same place too, where the Mariposa was so abundant scattered all through the grain fields, was found one of the *Brodiaeas* which we do not have in this county, *B. laxa*, with an umbel of large showy flowers, reminding one of the *Agapanthus* lily, although smaller. Our own are lovely enough, *B. coronaria* (the harvest *Brodiaea*), *B. capitata*, the wild hyacinth so-called, which is still abundant. It is also known as "blue dicks" and by other unepithetous names. Two others outside our county are so lovely and distinctive that it would not seem right to omit them from our garden list: *B. ixioides*, the golden *Brodiaea*, with star-like flowers of a clear yellow, and the floral fire-cracker, *B. ida-maia*.

We have here another flower somewhat resembling the *B. ivioides*, namely, our *Bloomeria*, so charmingly spread over our mesas. There are two species, *B. crocea* and *B. Clevelandii*.

More seldom seen than others of our lily friends, but certainly a lovely thing when encountered, is our *Fritillaria*, known to us as "Mission Bells," or "chocolate lily" (*Fritillaria biflora*). I do not like

the latter name, for the color of the flower is far from the monotone that the word chocolate suggests. It is almost iridescent, showing hints of many colors blended.

One of our wild onions at least should be included in our lily bed, planted in a clump, to make a mass of color, *Allium peninsulare*, a bright rose purple.

A far less showy but a lovely little thing is the *Zygadene*, the star lily, with clusters of white stars for blossoms and a ruffled leaf. It is common on the mesas.

I cannot refrain from speaking of the *Amole* (*Chlorogalum*), even though not in all gardens would it find itself a place. But it is so enchanting in its airy beauty that it just can't be omitted. The leaves long, ruffled, and rising as a much branched stalk with flowers scattered like a flock of white butterflies!

Our bulbs are for the most part easy of cultivation. In general they are found in a heavy soil, many of them deep in the adobe.

Emphasis has been placed upon the fact that some of these lovely things are still common. That is the case in far less degree than formerly and some of them are rare. Years ago, between San Diego and La Jolla, there were literally fields of the wild hyacinth, and the growing scarcity of this still fairly abundant little *Brodiaea* is due, not to the picking of the flowers, but to the encroachment of building projects and other factors which come in the wake of the growth as a necessary accompaniment to the spread of a growing population. It would seem almost a duty that we should preserve these and other native growths by their cultivation, in some respects the best form that conservation could take. It is fortunate with the bulbs of our county and state that they are being propagated and may be obtained for our gardens without despoiling our countryside.—Ethel Bailey Higgins, Botany Dept., Natural History Museum.

More than 500 species of plants have been listed in Death Valley.

Low Foreground Planting . . .

By ESTHER CLARE JOHNSON

One of the problems that occasionally confronts the home gardener is the matter of small shrubs. There is always a definite need in any planting for a number of small subjects, and the difficulty is to find them. It is my intention to list a few that will help the gardener when he comes to the conclusion he needs a small but interesting plant for some focal point in his planning scheme.

There is a little gem among natives, *Acalypha californica*, and while it would need to be handled with the usual discrimination subject to all our natives, if the spot will take it you will have a nice little subject. It is a bushlet reaching a height and breadth of about 15 inches. Possibly a little more. The foliage is colorful, suggestive of autumn tints, and the bloom is decidedly so. I am indebted to Mr. Frank Gander for my acquaintance with this *Acalypha*, and he suggests that it would be a good item for the rock garden. Certainly it would be safer there than in a general planting, although a well drained spot not too close to water loving plants would suit it.

Another good small native plant is *Solanum xanti*. This is a neat little plant, with the bloom of the *Solanum rantonetti* we all know. The plant itself is a tidy little thing with small, slender dark green foliage. It presumably will require the same conditions usually accorded to native shrubs and would not be suitable in a spot that was too well watered. However, a place can usually be found for such a type, if a little thought is used.

There is a plant I have enjoyed a great deal, *Serissa foetida*. It is not fussy about where it goes and is a pleasing subject for the foreground. It is compact and bushy, not more than two feet in height, with small, neat foliage. The form most seen has a pale green edge to the lustrous dark leaf, but there is

so little of the lighter color it is not conspicuous. The flower is small, the buds a pale pink opening pure white. It is quite a pleasing little shrub and well worth a place in the foreground planting.

Reinwardtia indica, already mentioned in a short article on winter bloomers, is also one of the good small items for the foreground and another is *Calceolaria*. I am not certain of the species name of this, but it is probably *integrifolia*. This one flowers quite freely, and, unlike the glass-house types, does well in the sun and is quite a showy little specimen, foliage interesting as well as flowers. In form it makes a rounding dome-like structure to some three or four feet across and as much as two feet in height under good conditions.

Most of the *Hebes*, generally known as *Veronicas*, lend themselves to foreground planting, if some shade is available. One of the least common is *Hebe hulkeana*, a tidy shrub of good habit, differing somewhat in its foliage from the usual form and with lilac colored flowers in spring. These woody *veronicas* are quite generally known but should be planted with some discretion and feeling for their rather definite requirements. The soil should be substantial as to texture to retain moisture, but not overburdened with fertilizing materials. They do not like extreme heat and respond most favorably to cooling breezes. A little fog is very much to their liking. For use in a warmer place, the most practical species is probably the little *traversii*.

The Spurge-olive, *Cneorum tricoccum*, is not very well known, but is appearing now in nursery lists more frequently. It is a low shrubby plant of dull, livid green foliage, bright yellow flowers in rather open heads and red berries later, arranged in threes. This plant does not seem to require any-

thing but ordinarily good garden culture.

Among the older plants that seem to fit into this classification is that very dark little *Euonymus microphyllus*, which is so dark in the shade as to appear almost black. It may have a flower, but not to my recollection. It is, as most know, favored by scale, but is easy to keep clean if sprayed thoroughly once or twice a year. *Myrtus compacta* is almost as old in use and much better known. It is a bright green lively and dense mass of small pointed leaves. Watch this for thrips and give it full sun.

The *Cotoneasters* offer several species for this purpose. *C. decora* is new to me and nobody seems to know much about it. It is very evidently dwarf and appears as if it might make a very substantial low mass for facing down larger shrubs. Rock Spray or *C. microphyllus* is well known, but its variety—*thymifolia*—is scarcely ever seen. As its name would suggest, the tiny leaves are indeed like thyme and of a brighter green than the parent species. It is more dense and lower as a bush and in season is studded by very tiny and very bright red beads that will be berries if you look closely.

Out of Turmoil Comes Peace

By Roland Hoyt

The people of England have our sympathy in their hour of trial as they have all these years had our gardening respect and admiration. Their thoughts and conclusions on the development of the landscape have always had a profound influence more or less throughout the world and especially is this true in America.

It is scarcely to be expected they are giving any considerable attention to these lighter things at this time, yet here is a book from their staggering shores that comes as an exhibit of the indomitable perse-

(Continued on Page 5)

Gambel White-Crowned Sparrow

By FRANK FORREST GANDER

One morning in mid-September, two birds flew over my head, and, as I heard their calls and recognized their outlines against the sky, I gave three cheers inwardly for the little voyagers. Gambel White-Crowned Sparrows they were, newly arrived from Canada or Alaska. Each autumn I watch eagerly for the first of these migrants from the far north, for they foretell the coming of the fall rains. Their arrival means that soon brown hills will be green with growing grass, that chaparral will glow with new life, rain pools will form on the mesas, and I shall need a new excuse for daily inspection of my plant pets for they will need watering much less frequently.

I may tire of rainy days before the Gambel Sparrows leave us again in early May, but the first rain is always welcomed with delight—so, too, are these little birds that precede it. Early on the morning of Sept. 12 for five successive years, I looked from a certain window and saw my first Gambel Sparrows of the season perched just outside. But this regularity of arrival did not continue. Some years they do not appear until near the end of the month, and again they may be early and get here by the fifth. Whenever they arrive, they announce their presence, for at dusk their unmistakable songs may be heard ringing from roosting sites in sumac clumps in the canyons.

Some folks may fail to hear this song, but they cannot fail to see the birds. These arrive in legions and drift through our gardens in active, cheery-voiced flocks. With their buoyant liveliness and clear, whistled calls, they just miss being rowdies, and one cannot fail to notice them. And the adults are easily recognized, too, for the black and white stripes on their heads are quite distinctive. True, all of the white-crowns are much alike, but so few of any of the other races ever visit our gardens that only the care-

ful bird students will bother to distinguish them. On the heads of birds in their first year are brown and grey stripes which are replaced by the black and white of the adults during the winter. Otherwise, these immature birds are much like the older ones, with plain grey breasts and backs streaked with brown and black, and they are mixed in the flocks in about equal numbers with the adults.

Before spring, I well may wish that both adults and young would stay out of my garden for they feed greedily on growing plants, especially on tiny seedlings and tender garden plants like lettuce. They are fond of berries, too, and even at times eat the buds from dormant trees. Yes, by spring I shall look upon these birds as guests who have overstayed their welcome. But when the first song of the Gambel Sparrow sounds in September, it is for me the voice of a dear friend who has been long away.—Frank F. Gander, Natural History Museum, Balboa Park.

Chrysanthemum Show

There is no occasion that sets off the beautiful home of the Floral Association to better advantage than the Chrysanthemum show. On October twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh, the room was aglow with autumn colors. The handsome banking of magnolia boughs around the doors and the centerpiece of single chrysanthemums in henna-red on the tea table made a fine keynote.

There was a splendid list of entries and the blooms were at their best. The professional collection with its amazing variety of types, carefully named, held everyone. The amateur displays were surprisingly extensive and meritorious.

The arrangement classes were well filled and nicely placed. Glowing brass and pewter made a perfect

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COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!*

BREADTH AND DEPTH

I admit that there is much truth in Mr. Eastman's article, *Must We Prune?* in October's *GARDEN*, but I think he is a bit hard on us. If there were some guarantee handed out with each plant bought, saying for example, *THIS WILL GROW TO BE 10 FEET HIGH AND THEN STOP*, our problem would be solved. But does anything (except perhaps *Daphne Odora*) ever stop growing and stand still, in California? And when a pair of *Eugenias* that were to provide privacy for an outdoor livingroom grow and flourish and spread to be ten feet through and thirty feet high in a few short years, what can one do but to top and prune, top and prune?

The answer is obvious; we should have bigger lots. It was shocking to come to California, that land of great wide spaces, and to find that with all those thousands of acres and vast distances, except in the higher-priced residential sections, building lots still averaged only 50 by 100 feet. Why there isn't even room to get down and prune comfortably!—I. L. B.

ROSEMARY

Rosemary is of particular interest at Christmas and is mentioned by many an old-time writer. Spenser refers to it as "the cheerful Rosemary" and not only is it found in the kitchen garden, but was in use over arbors, and allowed to run at will. Rosemary "delights in sea spray" as indicated by its name (*Rosemarinus officinalis*) and is one of the plants of old to thrive here at the coast. It is the herb of remembrance. *Ophelia* remarks: "There's rosemary—that's for remembrance." It was used profusely at weddings, and at Christmas was used among the holly, ivy and mistletoe, to bring happiness when used in the decorations. The leaves have long been used for flavoring,

and today it is a favorite seasoning, in Italian cooking. F.A.P.

NEXT YEAR'S DAHLIAS

In locating the dahlia bed it is well to remember that the plants themselves, even with the best of care, are not very ornamental. A distant view, if possible, over a low hedge, is preferable to a close-up presentation. You will want to walk all around your plants, so they should be three feet apart. A single row will look irregular, but two rows set staggered will give a solid effect. This calls for a bed five and a half feet wide. With a vine covered fence behind, a path in front and a low hedge to "hide their ankles," the other side of the path, you have the ideal location. Full sun and a loose soil are also required.

If your soil is clayey, spade in deep a lot of bean straw in the autumn, a bale for every 100 square feet. In April, spread on two or three inches of river sand and then spade the ground over at least a foot deep. Then you are ready.—F. G. J.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Some little time after the flowering period, suckers or young plants begin to come up around the bases of the old mum plants. Cuttings should be made from the soft tips of these suckers and shoots, care being used to avoid those that seem to be yellow, weak or unhealthy. Dividing the crowns of the old plants and replanting is not the best practice.

In order to obtain cuttings from the old plants they are allowed to sucker freely, either where they are now growing or after the entire plant has been taken up, cut back severely and "heeled in" in some out-of-the-way place. As previously stated, suckers will finally spring up around these old plants and when they have attained suffi-

cient size cuttings of the soft tips are taken from three to four inches in length, each being cut back to a joint and the lower leaf of each removed. As soon as possible they should be inserted in sharp, clean sand in beds. It is also possible to root them in shallow boxes or pots filled with a light, sandy soil and placed in the half shade. In two or three weeks the cuttings will be rooted and can be taken up and planted in small pots, if desired. Care must be used that the cuttings and young plants do not dry out. They should be kept shaded until well rooted and then may be exposed to sunlight and air. After they have reached a height of five or six inches, they can be set out in the open ground.

Cuttings are best taken in March or April depending on the season and whether early or late flowering is desired.—R. R. M.

THE 1940 GARDEN CONTEST

It looks as though the Floral Association will have to polish up three bronze plaques, as the winners of last year's garden contest have qualified again and one more year will tell the tale. We wish them good luck, as it is not an easy task to maintain the same or better average, spring and fall, for three years running.

The contest did not seem as interesting this year as last, partly because the gardens were not new to us, but more because there were not enough fresh entries to make it stimulating. It was quite encouraging, however, to find that most of the entries had improved as the result of previous criticisms. We feel these same contestants could benefit even more by attending our regular meetings every month.

Mr. and Mrs. Hildreth Peckham, have a choice location for the silver medal they received again for the best large garden. Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wangenheim placed second for the year's average, and Mr. Norman Lawson, third.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ewing have a bronze medal as their second trophy for the best medium garden. Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan are

the runner-ups, and Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Gardner are in third place.

Another bronze reward has gone to Lt. and Mrs. Harlie H. Brown for their first-prize small garden. Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Faulkner have taken the second prize ribbon and Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Bryant received the third.

A.M.C.

Cleanings from the Magazines

By Ida Louise Bryant

HOUSE AND GARDEN for December gives its report on the pick of the 1940 plant novelties which it recommended in the spring and which proved satisfactory in spite of "the difficulties of the season." For the third straight season, apparently, UNUSUAL weather conditions prevailed on the Eastern Seaboard; "a late, cold spring was followed by a hot, dry summer, when between Decoration Day and Labor Day only one real rain was enjoyed." Of course we know that eastern gardeners don't consider a length of hose as indispensable as a cultivator in the garden, as we do here, and such a spell of dry weather would be a calamity there, while only a matter of course here. After living in California for 15 years or so, we were amused to hear an elderly friend, on a visit to our Wisconsin home, report that he had had the nicest tomato plants that summer that he'd just about ever had, but there wasn't any rain for so long that he thought sure that he was going to lose them!

But, to digress, we remember that while we didn't possess garden hose, in our childhood we carried endless buckets and sprinkling pots of icy-cold water pumped from the well for languishing rows of tiny celery plants during hot spells, and for tomato and cabbage plants, as well. On second thought, the pumping was done after the big rain-barrel's contents were exhausted, as its hoard, sun-warmed, and with an odor all its own, was considered better for tender seedlings than the water from the well, coming from a depth of 60 feet through solid limestone. The clean, soft rainwater from the huge cistern in the cellar was considered too precious to use freely for watering, for in those days of numerous petticoats a family with five feminine members really needed a good-sized cistern, with water from the well too hard for laundry use.

To return to here and now, it may be mere prejudice, unfounded on fact, but the water laboriously saved in the laundry tubs during rains seems to bring seedlings along more quickly than the product of our city reservoir system does. Failing rainwater, that dipped from the pool seems preferable to our naturally alkaline, artificially chlorinated supply.

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL'S recommendations are: Annuals, larkspur, ROSALIND and GLITTERS, many-branching; petunia, CREAM STAR, with that highly desirable form, a dwarf bush habit; scabiosa, HEAVENLY BLUE; marigold, LIMELIGHT, chrysanthemum-like flowers on 20-inch plants, light primrose; marigold, SPOTLIGHT, tubular center petals yellow, with mahogany-red guard petals (to name two out of six marigolds chosen); snapdragon, ROSALIE, rust resistant, topaz and rose; zinnia, FANTASY WILDFIRE; verbena, CYCLOPS, large flower heads, and not sprawling in habit; salvia, ROYAL BLUE, bushy plants (sounds incredible and a good companion for it, WHITE PLUME, a fine cut flower. How lovely that combination would be in flower arrangements.

Among the best perennials to come through the season with honors were: Hollyhock, HAILE SELASSIE, the blackest coloring imaginable in flowers; three hardy asters, HILDA BALLARY, pink, five feet; GAY BORDER BLUE, five feet, and SUNSET GLOW, a compact grower for the border, three and one-half feet. This is not to forget the Shasta daisy all the 1940 catalogues spoke of so glowingly, NOBILIS. It is described as a true Shasta daisy, which does not imply, we hope, that it possesses the decidedly unpleasant odor that made the old form unfit for table decoration. Or does it? We would like to know, before letting go of the coin held tightly in our chubby fist to buy some.

December's AMERICAN HOME offers encouragement to the amateur flower arranger with the use

Out of Turmoil

(Continued from Page 3)

verance of the people, a token if you will, symbolic of the spirit in which they carry on. It is to be hoped, too, that it is an indication of the manner in which they will ultimately settle down again to the ways and rewards of a well earned peace, one that is even-handed, just and fair to all—that it may endure.

Now we have just come through a season, so to speak, of garden encyclopedias in this country. None of these books of the last few years compete directly with the old and tried *Cyclopedia of Horticulture* edited by Liberty Hyde Bailey which has been standard through the years of the present generation. They do bring up to date, however, many methods and materials that have become obsolete or that have been improved upon. The art and science of gardening grows, as everything must or pass out.

The *Home Gardening Encyclopaedia*, edited by Walter Brett, F.R.H.S., Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York City, 1940, is presented for the use of the ordinary home gardener as a reference for plant materials and common practices in culture. While conditions here are totally dissimilar, there is much good that can be taken from English procedure and adapted to our conditions. A case in point is that of the compost pile. Here of all places, where soils are universally deficient in humus, waste materials such as clippings and prunings go the way of least resistance in the trash barrel. In England, where soils are generally well supplied with this mystic substance, every leaf and twig and branch and

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of everyday succulents and cacti when flowers are at a premium; we're sorry now that we tore up the climbing aloe that just couldn't be downed, and dumped the great strands into the rubbish barrel—but we know it will be back.

On our exchange list we have two Succulent magazines, "Desert Plant Life" and "Cactus and Succulent Journal," both published at Pasadena, and both very technical, and, to an outsider, unintelligible. But judging by some of the published letters from enthusiastic members, and by the clubs flourishing all over the country, many gardeners find the hobby intensely absorbing, and the chances for development of new varieties seem boundless.

HOLLAND'S the Texas magazine, has in its November issue a thoughtful article called "Developing the Natural Landscape." We quote: "Do not plant your dogwoods closer than 15 feet from your red cedar backgrounds, if you can help it." It conjures up pictures of Palomar, last spring—couldn't we have a few dogwoods all around?

SUNSET for December gives as its flower-of-the-month a new African Daisy, DIMORPHOTHECA HYBRIDA, a glistening white with shiny black center. Reasons (as though it needed any more than that): It germinates in 20 days, blooms in 60, grows only six to eight inches high, blooms through spring and summer. That clattering sound you hear isn't Paul Revere—it's us galloping to the seed store!

To color the flames in your fireplace this Christmas, soak pine cones or pieces of wood in the following chemical solutions for two minutes, and dry in a warm room:

Green flames: To one gallon of water add one pound boric acid.

Blue flames: To one gallon of water add one pound copper sulphate.

Red flames: To one gallon of water add one pound strontium nitrate.

Problems of the Soil

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

Papayas

Q. Is it possible to grow papayas here? If so, how should they be grown and what precautions should one use?—Mrs. E. E.

A. Normally papayas require some protection, even in this relatively frost-free coastal area. They are quite tender and hence must either be grown in entirely frost-free locations or under lath or cloth, preferably with some provision for heating in the event of below-freezing temperatures.

The male and female flowers of the papaya are borne on separate plants and, as pollination is necessary for the production of fruit, several plants must be set out in order to make sure the two sexes are present. In commercial plantings, at least, hand-pollination is practiced.

As previously indicated, a warm, sunny location for the planting is advised. The soil should be rich and well-drained. Plenty of irrigation water and fertilizer must be applied in order to keep the plants growing rapidly. They will bear for several years, under favorable conditions.

Sow Bugs

Q. Will you please advise if there is a spray on the market that will kill sow bugs upon making contact with them and at the same time will not injure grass or foliage of plants? "Eating" poisons seem to be inadequate.—G. L.

A. If sow bugs are to be killed by a spray, they must, of course, be hit by it and, taking into consideration their habits, this is not an easy matter. They are nocturnal in all stages, feeding at night. During the day they remain hidden under weeds, plants, rubbish, trash, boards, etc., preferably in cool, damp locations where they cannot be reached with a spray. For this reason, probably, little experimental work has ever been done with sprays. Poisons of various kinds

have proved to be quite effective, in most cases, when properly prepared and distributed.

It is possible that an alum spray similar to that used against slugs might be effective to some extent. If you care to try it, dissolve from one-quarter to one-half pound of ordinary alum in a little hot water and mix this into a gallon of water. Spray at night when the sow bugs are out. Probably this material will not injure plants but test it for yourself before you spray valuable or very tender plants and do not use more than is necessary. Sprays containing pyrethrum and/or rotenone (derris) would very likely be satisfactory also.

A very good poison bait for sow bugs is made by mixing together two parts of rye flour, two parts of granulated sugar and one part of paris green. This can be placed around where sow bugs are active. Sow bugs can also be trapped under wet sacks, boards or in cans or flower pots filled with damp excelsior or straw.

Ferns

Q. I have not been very successful in growing ferns out of doors. Will you be kind enough to give me some hints as to how best to grow them, what soil they like and if they must always be grown in the shade, how much water they should have, etc.—Mrs. B. D.

A. In the first place an effort should be made to duplicate, as far as possible, the conditions under which most of our ferns are found in a wild state. Some of them, for instance, demand full shade and others will even endure full sunlight, especially some varieties that are native to California. Of the 1000 or more species of ferns found throughout the world, it is interesting to note that about 165 (Gregg) are said to be native to the United States and many of these are found in California.

In general it may be said that ferns like a moist atmosphere. This condition usually exists in the shade and away from drying drafts or winds. Absolute shade is not always necessary for, although it does tend to create the moist, cool atmosphere ferns love, experts say that some morning sun or filtered sunlight tends to produce better and stronger growth of a better and deeper green.

The roots of ferns must never be allowed to dry out. These plants do not like a soggy or stagnant soil but on the contrary do demand plenty of water, good drainage and a spongy, open and porous soil. This soil must contain enough humus to hold water well. Humus, water and drainage are very necessary in the growing of good ferns. Ferns are particularly sensitive to dry heat, as you undoubtedly know. Drafts and drying winds are almost equally destructive to them.

The soil should be relatively cool. Frequent irrigations will tend to produce this condition as also in some cases will the introduction of rocks and round stones into the soil, either buried or built up into a rockery, as they will absorb heat leaving the surrounding earth cool.

As previously indicated, a light and spongy soil is necessary for the best development of ferns. Leaf mold or peat moss well broken up can be added to any good loam and will make a very good soil for ferns. Some authorities recommend a mixture of peat moss, leaf mold, sandy loam and sharp sand, equal parts of each. Well rotted cow manure may be substituted for leaf mold, if desired.

Perhaps these very brief suggestions will be of value. Summarized they are, a cool, moist atmosphere; shade or partial shade; a well drained, light, spongy soil; plenty of water; perfect drainage and planting, as far as possible, out of winds and drafts.

Q. I have always wanted to grow some citrus fruit but have only a small space, much too small for more than one or at the most
(Continued on Page 9)

Bright Color in Winter . . .

"NOW, AND AGAIN IN SPRING"

The time has come when tidy people will be feeling that earth-urge to clean out the lily pool in preparation for the summer showing of heavenly bloom. Whether they do so or not is beside the point so far as the winter aspect is concerned. Let us think now of what it is going to do for us next fall and winter.

First, put in the lily Blue Triumph, a large flowering kind. The size need not be disconcerting in relation to the small pool, because all such plants will accommodate themselves to growing quarters—that is, if it would like to give you a one-foot flower, it will produce one only six inches across if it has only a half size container. This flower is a beautiful blue, lasts full seven days and continues well into January.

Gonnere must be in this pool—very double and pure white; also the old standard yellow Marliac which is willing to give color until very late in the year. Robinsoni is good for its rich, red flowers overlaid with yellow, deepening with age. The medium sized leaves of this plant are pretty with their speckling maroon and are suited to the smaller or cramped pools. James Brydon is a general favorite—brilliant rosy-red flowers and bronzy leaves faintly blotched. Venusta is the darkest of the pinks—a very rich and unusual shade.

Now in one corner tuck in the yellow water-poppay which has small and numerous leaves, taking up but little room since it runs along on top of the water. For color in late winter when all lilies are dormant, have a plant of Marsh-marigold with flowers two inches across, golden yellow high above the water. It requires plenty of room in shallow water. The ones available are educated varieties of the species we picked in early spring of the east, the one that ran so luxuriantly

along the banks of creeks.

For another winter bloomer get the Water Hawthorn having long narrow leaves floating on the water. The fragrant white blossoms are handsome set with the black stamens.

If you want height or if the plane of water and surrounding area seems to require a few vertical lines, take the large, white-flowering arrowhead, *Sagittaria montevidensis*, which comes from the neighborhood of the late naval battle of the news sheets. The blue Pickerelweed, *Pontederia cordata*, gives a strictly erect line coming up out of the water, while its variety—*lanceifolia*, is even more pronounced. Don't be disturbed by the term "weed" for it is a beautiful thing and objectionable only to the farmer who wants to grow some other crop in the ground it likes.

The submerged grasses are pretty, but they fill up the water space in a small pond so quickly they may well be questioned. Of course, the young, growing fish like them as a playground and they do furnish a nesting place for such microscopic animal life that means so much for the balance of life in the pool. But as being necessary for creating oxygen, no—they are not. All other growing plants will fill that want perfectly.

Now in the last corner, you must have that new variety of Water Hyacinth, *azurea*, which reaches out of the water on curving, upright stalks in lovely velvety shades of yellow and blues. Also, don't forget the dainty little Water Violet, which takes up so little room and gives so much.

Another winter attraction that should not be overlooked for the pool is the pretty spotted leaves of the small Mexican lily. This is the only lily within my knowledge which keeps its leaves throughout
(Continued on Page 9)

The Winter Garden . . .

By WALTER BIRCH JR.

While December is not the best planting month in the year, a number of things may be successfully put in the ground: Sweet Alyssum, Snapdragons, Calendula, Candytuft, calliopsis, Clarkia, Annual Chrysanthemums, California Poppy, Dianthus, Larkspur, Lupin, Mignonette, Nigella, Nemesis, Pansy, Phlox Drummondii, Stocks, Early Flowering Sweet Peas, and California Wild Flowers.

Plants of Carnations, Canterbury Bells, Columbine, Foxglove, Pansy, Pentstemon, Snapdragon, Stocks, Shasta Daisy, Verbena, Violet and Dianthus.

Bulbs of: Amaryllis, Calla, Gladiolus, Daffodils, Watsonias, Lilies, Dutch Iris, Anemones and Ranunculus. One of the Lilies that is not used much here, but does exceedingly well and is very easy of culture is the Philippinense or Philippine Lily. In shape and habit it resembles the Easter Lily, its color being white with a tinge of pink on the outside. It is much harder than the Easter Lily growing taller and producing more blooms, also thriving in sunnier locations. Like other varieties of Lilies the Philippine should be planted where it is to remain undisturbed for a number of years as they are not at their best until they have been in the same spot for at least three or four years.

The Dutch Iris is another bulbous plant that should be grown much more extensively here. These should not be confused with the German or Bearded Iris, although they are somewhat similar in form, they are altogether different in nature and much smaller, keeping a long time in water. Very easy culture and sure producers. They should be planted about two inches deep and six inches apart.

A ground cover of Nemophila or Baby Blue Eyes will make your bulb beds much more attractive.

In the Vegetable Garden one

may sow such seeds as Carrots, Turnips, Beets, Lettuce, Radish, Onions, Spinach, Mustard, Broccoli, and Peas.

Watch out for Snails and Slugs, they may be getting active anytime now. Snarol, Bug-Geta or any other standard brand of bait will be found to be effective. They all have the comparatively new materials known as Metaldehyde incorporated in them, which both attracts and kills the pests. If you are bothered with Sowbugs and Cutworms be sure the bait you use also has Calcium Arsenate in it as well as the Metaldehyde.

The Rose bushes will be more or less dormant this month so this is a good time to remove the old leaves and give them a good thorough spraying with either a copper solution or lime and sulphur. The Bordelo and Fung-Ex are two very good copper sprays that do not leave any unsightly residue on the leaves and are very effective as a control and preventative of mildew. Either of these may be combined with either Rotenone or Pyrethrum sprays for the control of various insects, including the ever-present Aphids.

Out of Turmoil

(Continued from Page 5)

even household "slops" with soapy water are brought together and treated intelligently in order that the ultimate essences may be put back into the soil. They use "Manurial" substances and build up their soils. We use vitamin and commercial and wonder—well, my particular wonder at this stage is what would happen if someone were to check manure water against vitamin B1 in a well rounded series of experiments with some of the more common plant materials.

Coming back to Brett, listen in

on a bit of pretty good garden philosophy:

"It is always being said that the knack of gardening can't be acquired—one is either born with it or must go through life without it. Nothing of the sort. Whether it's your first attempt or your thousandth, do what needs to be done at the right time and in the right way and the results can't be anything else but completely satisfactory.

Of course you know a friend who has merely to stick a thing into the ground for it to grow. But he only seems to possess some magic power with plants; in actual fact he's just a knowledgeable man who takes pains, starts right, goes on right and finishes right. Half this world's gardening mishaps are due to concluding some job with: There, that'll have to do."

And that is where these books come in. This one is priced at \$2.50—Roland Hoyt.

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Problems of the Soil

(Continued from Page 7)

two big trees. Are there any citrus trees that do not require much space, say several varieties?—W. J. R.

A. There are several good dwarf citrus trees one can get, perhaps the most outstanding of which is the Meyer lemon. This lemon is ever-bearing, is very hardy as regards susceptibility to frost, is small in size and compact in shape. Its fruits are borne in great abundance, are orange-colored and somewhat larger in size than the ordinary lemon. It is without doubt the very finest dwarf lemon obtainable.

In the Tangerine group the Satsuma, one of the Mandarin oranges, is quite hardy and is quite suitable for a small garden. The tree is usually under 10 feet in height and bears freely when quite young, maturing its fruit about the middle or latter part of December.

The kumquat, the Chinese meaning of which is "gold orange," and of which there are a number of varieties, is also quite small, not over six to eight feet in height as a rule and bears great quantities of small golden orange, olive-shaped fruits. It is also resistant to frost. Nothing more ornamental in the fruit-tree line than a kumquat full of fruit can be imagined. The fruit has a definite use in the manufacture of marmalades, etc.

The limequat, a hybrid of the lime and the kumquat, is very dwarf, is upright in habit and bears heavy crops of thin-skinned, light yellow limes, nearly seedless. It is quite hardy although perhaps not so much so as some of the other dwarfs named.

If you have room for any more trees, either the Sampson tangelo or the Thompson grapefruit, a seedless pink-fleshed variety, would be of value. Although these latter named trees can hardly be called dwarf, they do not grow very large.

It has been estimated that there are more than 10,000 species of the daisy, that is, family compositae.

Bright Colors

(Continued from Page 7)

the winter, even in our superfine San Diego climate.

(Editor's note: This was the last word from a regular contributor to the California Garden, one who could be depended upon for timely and authoritative material on her particular interests, Fuchsias and the various water plants. Bertha M. Thomas gave to us of the richness of her horticultural experience. Now she has gone to that eternal "garth" where surely there will be flowers for her adept hands and understanding mind. We miss her.)

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

(Continued from Page 3)

background for the jewel tones of some exhibits. Excellent taste was shown in vase and bowl displays with originality in the use of other materials. As usual, the most thrilling entries were not for competition, but the public lingered over a choice figure with leaves and button chrysanthemums in rich harmony; another of white and crystal and a third which held a redwood stump with a riot of autumn tints around it and tiny birds on the wood repeating the blue of the pottery container.

The rarest treat was the master-arrangement in two baskets and two bowls of very select specimens of large and small chrysanthemums done in the authentic Japanese manner. We all echoed the blue ribbon approval of the judges and wish for more at other shows.

There was a "white-elephant" sale of vases, plants, and cuttings. Fine weather and heavy attendance completed a successful show.

A.M.C.

The oleander is one of Bermuda's most famous flowers. In that land the head of the family plants the boundary hedges on the family property, which often are of oleanders.

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